

Application No.: 10/685,406
Art Unit: 3722

Attorney Docket No. 23380.00
Confirmation No. 7856

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant has canceled Claims 1-6, 8-9, 11-13 and 17, and added Claims 18-26. Claims 14 and 18-26 remain pending in the present application. Claims 7, 10 and 16 were canceled by previously filed amendments. Claim 14 is the sole independent claim.

In the recent Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11, 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Newberry et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,033,215) in view of Ferdon (U.S. Patent No. 1,536,429), and further in view of Newell (U.S. Patent No. U.S. 2002/0074792). Claims 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Newberry et al. in view of Ferdon and Newell, and further in view of Roane (U.S. Patent No. 5,195,262). The Examiner allowed independent Claim 14.

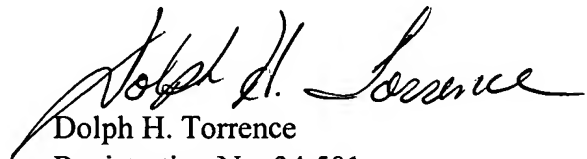
The cancellation of Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11-13, 15 and 17 by the present amendment should serve to render the prior art rejections of record moot with respect to these claims. The Examiner's allowance of independent Claim 14 is noted with appreciation. New dependent Claims 18-26 have been introduced to further define features of the allowed independent claim. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that corresponding dependent Claims 18-26 should also be allowable over the prior art of record.

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For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dolph H. Torrence". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Dolph H. Torrence
Registration No. 34,501
(703) 486-1000